

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00539 091635Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
ACDA-10 IO-13 /094 W
-----092028Z 088371 /44

R 091608Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8893
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 539

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EI UK (NI)

SUBJ: BRITISH SOLDIERS FINED AND FREED IN IRISH COURT

1. THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY'S ELITE SPECIAL AIR SERVICES WHO WERE ARRESTED IN THE REPUBLIC LAST MAY AFTER STRAYING INTO THE REPUBLIC WERE EACH FINED ONE HUNDRED POUNDS YESTERDAY AND RELEASED. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RELIEF EVIDENT IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE JUDGE WAS LENIENT. THE CASE HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A CAUSE CELEBRE HER ("VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY") AND A SOURCE OF SOME FRICTION BETWEEN HMG AND THE GOI. AFTER THE VERDICT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID: QUOTE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE MEN HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED OF ANY ILL-INTENT IN THE REPUBLIC. THE FINES WHICH WERE IMPOSED WERE MORE OR LESS MANDATORY AND THEY WILL BE PAID BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNQUOTE

2. THE BRITISH EMBASSY CAME OUT OF THIS AFFAIR WITH SOME EGG ADHERING TO THE FACE. THEIR MILITARY ATTACHE ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE SOME BOOZE INTO THE COURTROOM, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO HAVE A CELEBRATION WITH THE SAS MEN (ASSUMING, EVIDENTLY, THEY WOULD GET OFF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00539 091635Z

LIGHTLY). THE BOTTLES WERE FOUND AND PRESENTED TO THE JUDGE, WHO DID NOT CONFISCATE IT BUT GAVE A STERN LECTURE. ALL OF THIS WAS GLEEFULLY REPORTED IN THE IRISH PAPERS. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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